

## Public Health Emergency Response Seminar

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The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) presented the "Public Health Emergency Response" seminar on Friday, January 4. The program was designed for professionals from local health departments, health care fields, and emergency response. Speakers included representatives from the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), the Indiana Counter-Terrorism and Security Council (C-TASC), Office of the State Fire Marshal, Indiana University Medical Center, and ISDH.



Following a videotaped welcome by Lt. Governor Joe Kernan, the seminar included information on emergency management at state and local levels, role of local health departments, biological, chemical and radiologic agents, the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS), mass prophylaxis, laboratory issues, communication, and various agencies' roles for preparedness and response. Viewers could phone or fax questions during the seminar for discussion during question and answer sessions. Funding for the seminar was provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The seminar was uplinked through the Indiana Higher Education Telecommunications System (IHETS) network from the Indiana University Radio-TV services in Bloomington to approximately 80 satellite sites throughout the state. The seminar was also viewed at ISDH via live videostreaming provided by IHETS. As of January 14, coordinators from 43 sites reported 256 participants viewed the seminar. Of those 256 participants, 121 (55%) identified themselves as working at a health department, 49 (22%) as working in the health care field, 17 (8%) as working as a first responder, and 34 (15%) identified themselves as working in another type of field.

Videotapes of the two morning and afternoon sessions are available for \$25 each plus a \$5 shipping and handling charge. Tapes can be ordered by calling 812-855-2987. Additional information, including the seminar presentation slides, is available on the ISDH website at <http://www.statehealth.in.gov>.

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